

Section 7

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

7.1 Parks, Recreation, and Arts

Parks History

The City of Bloomington has one of the premier parks and recreation systems in Minnesota with nearly one third of the City being comprised of parks, open space, wetlands, lakes, or other public spaces. The City park system consists of 97 parks, recreation or open space properties. Regional parks, Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, along with school and other private recreation facilities complement City facilities. Much of the park system was acquired and constructed in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Many of the capital improvements at these facilities are aging and in need of replacement or updating. The population of the City is changing with many empty nester households, fewer children and more cultural diversity. New recreation pursuits have emerged such as lacrosse, in-line skating, skate boarding, off leash dog parks, disc golf, etc., which will require facility or programming changes.

Park Master Plan

A revised *Park Master Plan* was adopted in 2008. The previous plan was prepared in 1973 and focused on acquiring and building the park system. The revised *Park Master Plan* is intended to act as a guide to the future and set the general direction for parks and recreation from 2008 to 2026.

The Plan recommended five major initiatives to address significant park system revitalization requirements, position parks to meet the needs of a changing community, create a sustainable funding method for on-going replacement needs, and to obtain funding for park, trail and recreation improvements to keep the system fresh and vital.

- Revitalize parks.
- Create sustainable funding.
- Add trails.
- Enhance natural resources.
- Improve community and recreation facilities.



Bloomington Civic Plaza houses City Hall, Police and the Arts Center and has been a focal point for building and renewing the community.

Community Facilities Introduction

Well built, relevant, and sustainable community facilities are necessary to support the provision of high quality education, recreation, fire and safety protection, arts, and other public services.

The Community Facilities element describes the public schools, parks, arts and cultural facilities, and buildings that serve the residents and businesses in Bloomington and recommends policies related to the continued care and provision of these facilities.



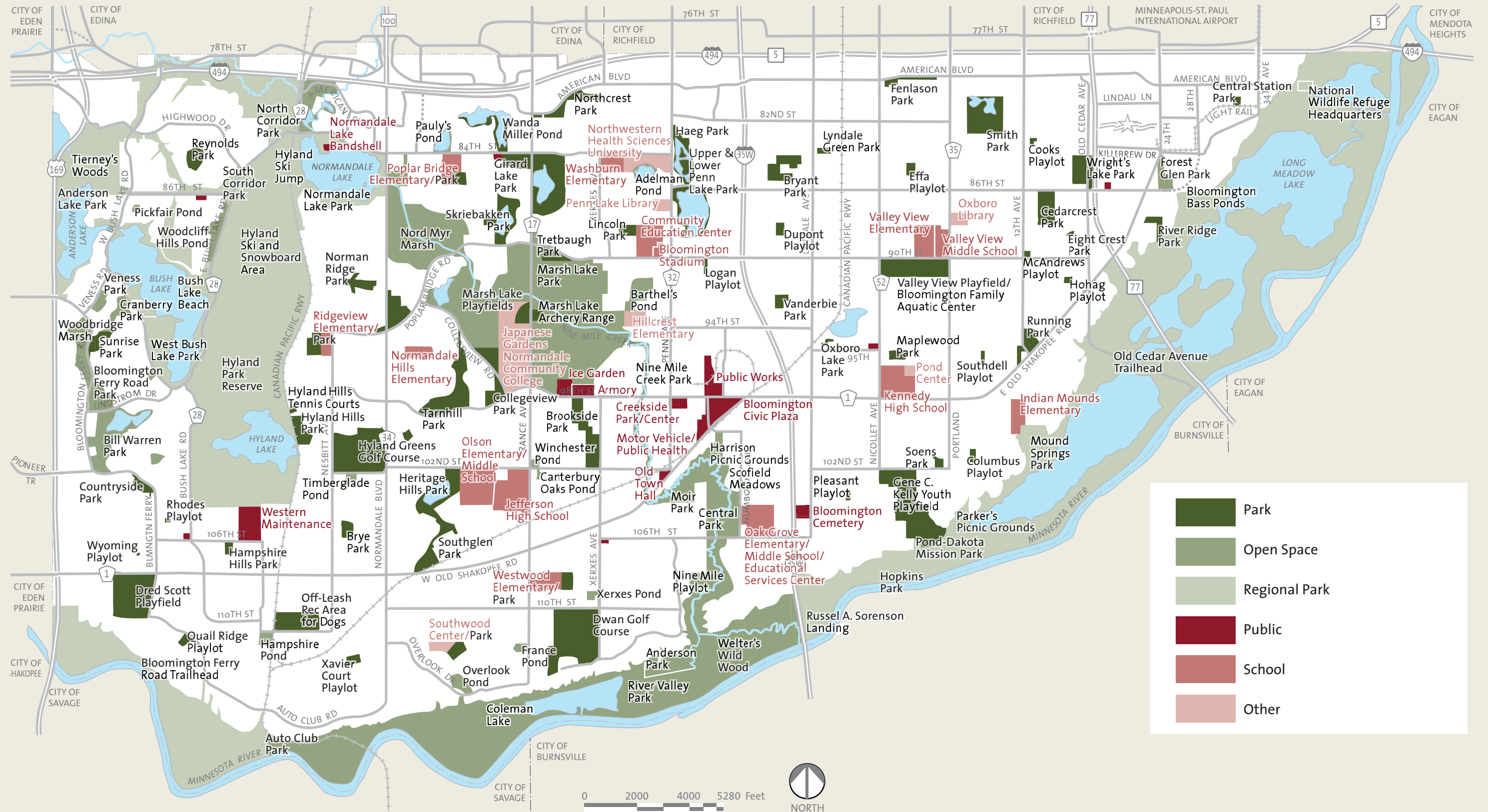
Did you know ...?

- The Village of Bloomington made its first park purchase in 1954: 28 acres of Moir Park for \$60,000.
- In 1958 the City Subdivision Regulations were amended to require park dedication from developers, which provided the bulk of funding for the park system as the City developed.

Park Master Plan Priority Strategies

1. **Park Revitalization Program** – Adopt and fund a park revitalization program for park infrastructure.
2. **Signature Parks** – Reposition parks to reduce costs, improve quality, and better meet evolving and diverse needs.
3. **Trails** – Adopt an Alternative Transportation Plan including improved internal and external bicycle and pedestrian connections.
4. **Natural Resource Management** – Enhance planning and resource allocation devoted to natural resources and sustainability.
5. **Recreation Programming** – Emphasize quality programming to serve a spectrum of age, ability and interests. Encourage active living actions.
6. **Community Gathering/Sense of Community** – Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance a sense of community.
7. **Arts** – Integrate public art into community life and increase opportunities to participate in arts and culture activities.
8. **History** – Identify and preserve sites and properties of historical significance.
9. **Collaboration** – Increase communication and partnerships with advocacy groups, partners, and the business community. Support volunteerism and community stewardship of parks and natural areas.
10. **Bond Referendum** – Define the content and timing of a future park, trail, green space, and community facilities bond referendum, an essential tool needed to fund planned park system improvements.

Figure 7.1 Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities



Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.

Park Classification

Park classifications were updated with the 2008 *Park Master Plan* to more accurately describe the City's park and recreational facilities.

Table 7.1 Park Classification by Quantity and Acres

Classification	Quantity	Acres
Playlot/Mini-Park	19	32.2
<i>Use:</i> Intended for families with children up to ten years of age in areas that cannot be served by a neighborhood park service area. Usually includes play apparatus and turf areas. Area considered a Mini-Park if no play apparatus is provided.		
<i>Service Area:</i> 1/3 Mile Radius		
<i>Size:</i> 1 to 2 Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Spaced throughout the community to serve neighborhoods. Frequently within neighborhood playgrounds or community parks.		
Neighborhood Park	23	218
<i>Use:</i> Intended to meet primary recreation needs of a neighborhood. Focus is on family and informal play needs of 5 to 17 year olds. Usually includes play apparatus and areas for field games, court games and skating.		
<i>Service Area:</i> 1/2 Mile Radius		
<i>Size:</i> 5 to 10 Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Spaced throughout the community to serve neighborhoods. Can co-locate with elementary schools.		
Community Park	7	202
<i>Use:</i> Intended for use by all ages. Usually includes areas of natural or ornamental quality for walking, bicycling, viewing, sitting or picnicking. Often includes a playlot.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Two Mile Radius		
<i>Size:</i> 10-50 Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Determined by existing natural features.		
Community Playfield	4	122.4
<i>Use:</i> Emphasis on facilities for organized and individual sports. Usually includes lighted athletic fields, areas for court games and skating.		
<i>Service Area:</i> 20-Minutes driving distance		
<i>Size:</i> 20-80 Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Determined by existing topography and good transportation access.		
Large Urban Park	2	369.8
<i>Use:</i> Attractive natural features contrast to urban environment. Caters to nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, walking and skiing.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Southwest metropolitan area		
<i>Size:</i> 100+ Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Determined by existing natural features.		



2008 Parks Master Plan

The 2008 *Parks Master Plan* includes the following Parks, Recreation and Open Space goals:

1. Maintain and enhance city park and recreational assets.
2. Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.
3. Preserve and maintain our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.
4. Enhance the City's arts, cultural, and historic assets.
5. Promote a sense of community through recreation programming.
6. Connect the community with trails, walks and bikeways.
7. Build community support for parks and recreation.



Classification	Quantity	Acres
Regional Park	2	6,217.6
<i>Use:</i> Continuous or groupings of open spaces offering facilities/ activities (trails, picnic, wildlife observation, water sports, etc.) determined by natural assets. Extent of active recreation development area is typically limited to a proportion of park area. Much of the park retained in a natural state.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Twin Cities metropolitan area		
<i>Size:</i> 250+ Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Determined by existing natural features.		
Conservation Area	14	1,564.8
<i>Use:</i> Protects natural environment, wildlife habitat and scenic quality rather than satisfying demand for recreation opportunities. Secondary, passive or active recreation uses can coexist with primary conservation function.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Local and Twin Cities metropolitan area		
<i>Size:</i> 20+ Acres		
<i>Location:</i> Determined by existing natural features.		
Special Use Areas	8	204
<i>Use:</i> Preserves and maintain buildings, sites, or objects of historical or archeological significance. Provides for community activities such as golf courses, fine arts, indoor ice facilities, gymnasiums, etc.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Varied		
<i>Size:</i> Varied		
<i>Location:</i> Where resources occur.		
Pond Area	18	113.1
<i>Use:</i> Ensures proper functioning of hydrologic systems. Provides some scenic observation.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Watershed and sub-watersheds.		
<i>Size:</i> Varied		
<i>Location:</i> Proximity to water resources.		
School/Private Recreation Facilities		
<i>Use:</i> Recreation facilities on private or school property that typically provide some level of recreation and access to the public. Public use is typically formalized with an agreement or easement for public use. Development and maintenance costs are often shared with the City.		
<i>Service Area:</i> Varied		
<i>Size:</i> Varied		
<i>Location:</i> School district or private property.		
TOTAL	97	9,043.8

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.

Special Recreational Facilities

Bloomington Center for the Arts

Bloomington Center for the Arts, located at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, occupies the north end of the Bloomington Civic Plaza. The Center is a focal point for performing and visual arts in Bloomington and the surrounding communities. The facility is extensively utilized by the Bloomington Fine Arts Council's eight member organizations, the City and the community. The facility contains a private theater, rehearsal space and classrooms that are available for rent and provides art classes, exhibits and performances. The Bloomington Fine Arts Council receives operating support from the City.

Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG)

Opened in 1970 with one rink, the Bloomington Ice Garden has grown to three indoor rinks (one of them Olympic-sized). The rinks meet much of the community's existing needs for indoor skating except during the most sought-after prime hours. The rinks are used primarily for youth and high school hockey and figure skaters. The rinks are also open for public skating as well as adult open hockey and pond hockey for youth. The original rink #1 was reconstructed in 2007. A new roof and heating and cooling system were installed on rinks #1 and 2 in 2003. To maintain a high quality of service, Rink #1 will need new ceiling paint, spectator seating and remodeled snack bar. In addition, Rink #3 will require a new roof by 2018.

Golf Courses

The City of Bloomington maintains and operates two public golf courses: Dwan and Hyland Greens. Dwan Golf Course is an executive length, par 68 golf course. Hyland Greens Golf Course consists of a long par 3 course, a "pitch and putt" par 3 course, and a 12-station practice range.

Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall, located at the intersection of Penn Avenue and West Old Shakopee Road, was the original Bloomington Town Hall. The building was moved to its present location in 1924. In 2007, the building was rehabilitated to its 1892 appearance. The building serves as a depository for historic artifacts, photos and documents, and provides limited meeting space. The Old Town Hall is leased to the Bloomington Historical Society to operate a historical museum.

Pond-Dakota Mission Park

Pond-Dakota Mission Park, acquired with federal LAWCON funds in the late 1970s, contains the historic Gideon Pond house and farm. The Gideon Pond house, initially constructed in 1856, was restored and dedicated in 1996 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Pond-Dakota Mission Park is the site of the annual River Rendezvous, a major week long event celebrating Native American and pioneer history.



Old Town Hall

Old Town Hall was built in 1892 as a place for public meetings, church services, education and social gatherings. Its use evolved to house government offices until 1964 when City offices moved across the street. Soon after, the City Council approved Old Town Hall's use by the Bloomington Historical Society.

In 2007 the building was renovated to restore its original 1892 appearance. Architectural details were replicated from old photographs. The cupola was recreated, asphalt shingles were replaced with cedar shakes, and stucco was removed to install wood siding among other modifications. *American Town and Country* magazine praised the restoration in their January 2008 issue.



Regional Park And Open Space Facilities

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congressional act in 1976 to preserve the Minnesota River Valley's natural resources, develop recreational opportunities, and to provide a wildlife interpretation and education center. The Refuge boundaries extend from the northeast boundary of Bloomington, south and west along the Minnesota River Valley to the Louisville Swamp near the city of Carver encompassing over 14,000 acres. The Refuge within the City extends the entire length of the Minnesota River Valley. In addition to the refuge area the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns over 4,200 acres, specifically the Long Meadow Lake and the Bloomington Ferry refuge units. The refuge area between the Long Meadow and the Bloomington Ferry units owned and maintained by the City. The Bloomington owned unit is 747.93 acres in size, not including portions of Central Park, Mound Springs Park, and Pond-Dakota Mission Park.

The wildlife refuge constitutes a large regional corridor park. It is designated for conservation uses and serves as major habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. Recreation uses include walking, biking, nature study and other trail uses. A proposed State trail, the Minnesota Valley State Trail will connect the refuge units in the future. The visitor center and refuge headquarters is located at 3815 East 80th Street in Bloomington.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve

The 2,486 acre Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve is part of the metropolitan regional parks and open space system. The park reserve consists of seven individual park units: Hyland Lake, Bush Lake, Anderson Lakes, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor, and Normandale Lake. Six of the park units are located entirely within the City of Bloomington, and the seventh, Anderson Lake, is split between Bloomington and Eden Prairie. The City of Bloomington and the Three Rivers Park District are joint implementing agencies for the Park Reserve as they each own and operate several of the individual park units. Bush Lake, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor and Normandale Lake park units are owned by the City of Bloomington. Anderson Lakes park unit is jointly owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District and the City of Bloomington. Hyland Lake park unit is solely owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District. Of the entire park area, 2,007 acres are within the City of Bloomington.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve provides a broad spectrum of natural resource based recreational opportunities and outstanding facilities that were developed by both the City of Bloomington and the Three Rivers Park District. Most notable are the picnicking and beach facilities at Bush Lake Park, the



Hyland Hills Ski Area, 70-meter ski jump, an extensive network of trails and the Richardson Nature Center. A master plan for Hyland-Bush-

Anderson Lakes Park Reserve was last updated in 1984. An update is planned for 2009.

Recreation and Arts Programming

The City of Bloomington provides over 50 different recreation and arts programs on an annual or seasonal basis. Recreation and arts programming in Bloomington is supported by community arts and recreation organizations that provide a broad array of programs to meet community needs and interests in arts, cultural activities, and sports for various age groups and populations within the city. The City of Bloomington has been successful in working cooperatively and in partnership with community arts and recreation organizations.

Support of arts programming dates back to 1963 when the Parks and Recreation Division promoted the establishment of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra through financial support from the City Council. Fine arts programming has expanded significantly with the growth of community arts organizations. Cultural, arts, and leisure activities are supported by community groups such as the Bloomington Fine Arts Council members (Angelica Cantanti, Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, Bloomington Medalist Concert Band,

Continental Ballet Company, Bloomington Civic Theater, Normandale Choral Society, and NOTE-able Singers); the Bloomington Garden Club; the Bloomington Swirlers; the Bloomington Historical Society; and the Gideon Pond Heritage Society.

Recreation and sports programming supported by community recreation organizations offer numerous programs for adults and youth in Bloomington. The Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) offers youth baseball, basketball, floor hockey, football, golf, ice hockey, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling. Other organized athletic groups include the Bloomington Amateur Hockey Association (BAHA), Barracuda Aquatics Club, Bloomington Adult Sports Association (BASA), Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association, Broomball, Classic League, Fall Ball, Bloomington Figure Skating Club, Girls' Fast Pitch, Horseshoe Club, Legion Baseball, Legion Gun Safety, North Star Diving, Bloomington Junior Soccer Club (BJSC), Town Team Baseball, Southdale YMCA, and Born Again Jocks (BAJ).





Did you know ...?

- The Bloomington School District estimates only three out of every 10 homes in Bloomington have a child in the school system.

7.2 Schools

Public K-12 Education

The city primarily lies within Bloomington Independent School District 271. Small portions of northwest Bloomington lie within Eden Prairie School District 272 and Edina School District 273. District 271, a unit of government separate from the City of Bloomington, operates all public kindergarten through grade 12 schools within Bloomington along with the community education program. The School District currently offers grades K-5 in nine elementary schools, grades 6-8 in three middle schools, and grades 9-12 in two high schools.

Table 7.2 Public K-12 Schools in Bloomington

High School (Grade 9-12)	Middle School (Grade 6-8)	Elementary School (Grade K-5)
Kennedy	Oak Grove	Hillcrest Community
Jefferson	Olson	Indian Mounds
	Valley View	Normandale Hills
		Oak Grove
		Olson
		Poplar Bridge
		Valley View
		Washburn
		Westwood

Source: Bloomington Independent School District 271 Website.

Private K-12 Education

Approximately 1,141 students are enrolled in private schools within Bloomington for the 2007/08 school year. (Source: Bloomington School District #271) These schools contain educational programs ranging from preschool to high school graduation. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 1,548 (13.3%) students residing in Bloomington were enrolled in either a private elementary or high school. Private schools in Bloomington include:

- Beacon Preparatory (6th grade and up)
- Bethany Academy (K-12)
- Bloomington Lutheran (K-12)
- Concordia Academy (9-12)
- Minnehaha Academy (K-5)
- Mount Hope Redemption Lutheran (Pre-8)
- Nativity of Mary (K-8)
- Seven Hills Classical Academy (K-5)

Post-Secondary Institutions

Normandale Community College offers Associate degrees and certificates and serves 13,400 students. Two-thirds of credit students attend full-time, which represents 6,244 students as of Fall 2007. The College continues to evaluate current and future needs and expand its facilities on campus to accommodate growth.

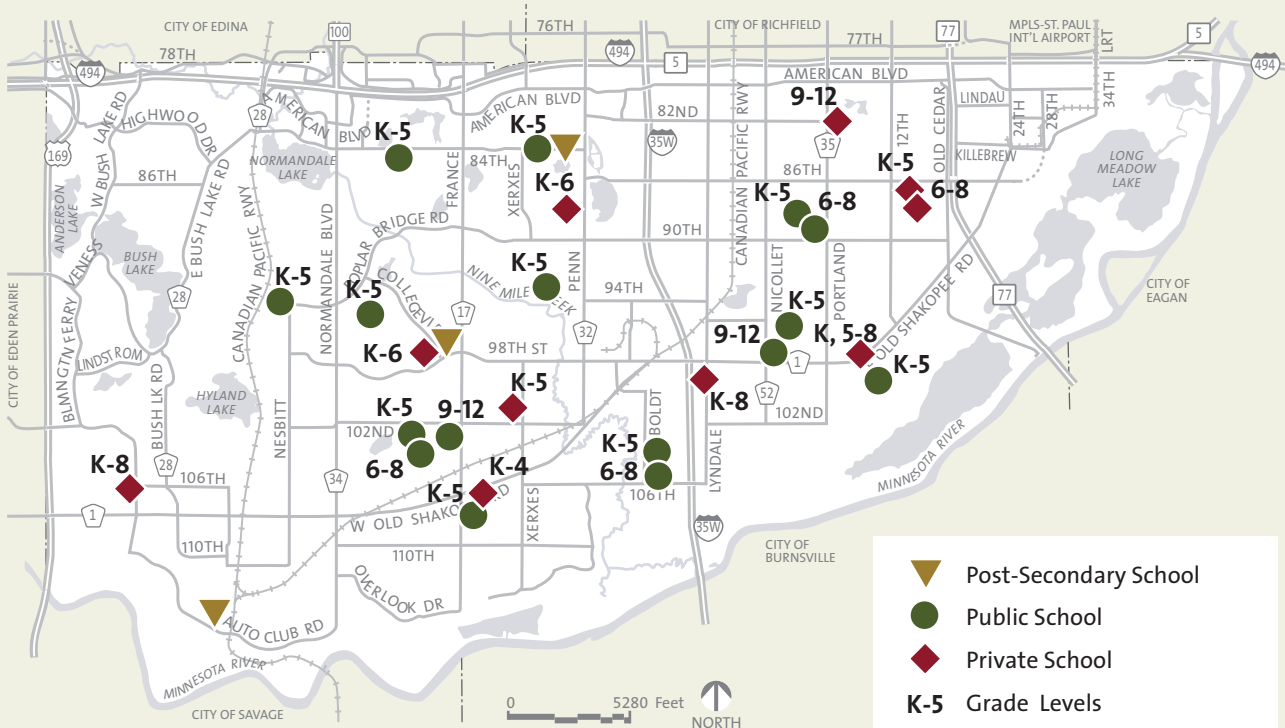
Northwestern Health Sciences University offers degrees and certification in a variety of natural health care professional programs in areas such as chiropractic,

acupuncture, and massage therapy disciplines. The University's enrollment of less than 1,000 students occupies a 25 acre campus, which constructed expanded classroom facilities in 2007.

Bethany College of Missions serves less than 100 students and offers programs in cross-cultural studies and global internships.



Figure 7.2 Public, Private and Post-Secondary Schools



Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division.



**Table 7.3 K-12 School Choice:
Bloomington Residents
2007-2008**

	Number	%
Bloomington Public Schools	10,259	84%
Other Public Schools	333	3%
Charter Schools (2006-07 data)	214	2%
Home Schools	198	2%
Private Schools	1,141	9%
Total	12,145	100%

Source: Bloomington Independent School District 271.

**Table 7.4 K-12 Open
Enrollment 2007-2008**

Students from other communities enrolled in Bloomington public schools	462
Bloomington students who enroll in other districts	333

Source: Bloomington Independent School District 271.

Forecast

Enrollment

As the City grew and developed in the 1950s and 1960s so did public school enrollment eventually reaching a peak of 25,000 students, 28 schools, and 2,000 staff members in 1969. Enrollment declined throughout the 1970s before stabilizing in the late 1980s. Today

enrollment is close to 10,000 students within 14 schools. The School District predicts enrollment numbers will remain flat throughout the next 5-10 years.

**Table 7.5
Bloomington School District Enrollment Projections, 2008-2013**

Grade	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Kindergarten Total	716	732	758	765	767	769
1	761	717	734	760	767	770
2	766	755	711	729	755	762
3	779	771	759	715	738	764
4	695	780	772	760	716	742
5	759	698	784	775	763	719
Elementary Total	4,476	4,453	4,518	4,504	4,506	4,526
6	757	761	700	786	777	765
7	789	761	765	704	790	781
8	787	780	752	756	696	781
Middle School Total	2,333	2,302	2,217	2,246	2,263	2,327
9	846	861	853	822	827	761
10	916	851	866	858	827	832
11	827	879	816	831	823	793
12	861	785	835	775	789	782
High School Total	3,450	3,376	3,370	3,286	3,266	3,168
Total Enrollment	10,259	10,131	10,105	10,036	10,035	10,021

Source: Bloomington Independent School District 271.

7.3 Public Buildings

Existing Facilities

It is Bloomington's intent to provide high quality; long-lasting public buildings that support the efficient and economical provision of desired services.

Civic Plaza

In December 1999, the City Council directed city staff and a citizen task force to explore the acquisition of a site suitable for a new campus of facilities. The City Council authorized site assembly in 2000 and the new City Hall, Police and Center for the Arts building was completed in 2003. The building design reflects the natural environment of the Nine Mile Creek Valley and the value Bloomington residents place on parks and green space. The building features a unique combination of arts center and municipal facilities. Many native plants and trees were planted throughout the site to complement the stone, cedar, and metal building materials. A 2,500 square foot mural was added to the exterior flyloft in 2007.

Creekside Community Center

Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue, is a former elementary school constructed in 1960 currently utilized by senior citizen programs and Human Services programs. City staff predicts the building will require major renovation or replacement within five to seven years. A study is planned as the first step in deciding whether to renovate or replace the facility.

Libraries

Bloomington is home to two libraries, Penn Lake Community Library at 8800 Penn Avenue and Oxboro Community Library at 8801 Portland Avenue. Hennepin County owns and operates both facilities.

Public Works

The Public Works complex was extensively redeveloped in 2002 and a second phase added in 2005/2006. Approximately 71,000 square feet of vehicle storage was constructed in 2002 to protect over \$16 million invested in equipment. In 2003, a salt-storage shed was constructed. The shed enables the City to buy salt in larger quantities in the off-season and keeps the products dry and protected from the elements.

Public Safety

The City maintains a 135-person volunteer Fire Department who responds from six fire stations located throughout the community. The average response to an emergency call is 4.1 minutes from the time of notification.

The Bloomington Police Department has an authorized strength of 116 sworn officers, 35 civilians, and 2 animal wardens. The Department is also home to one of only four Bomb Squads in the state of Minnesota.



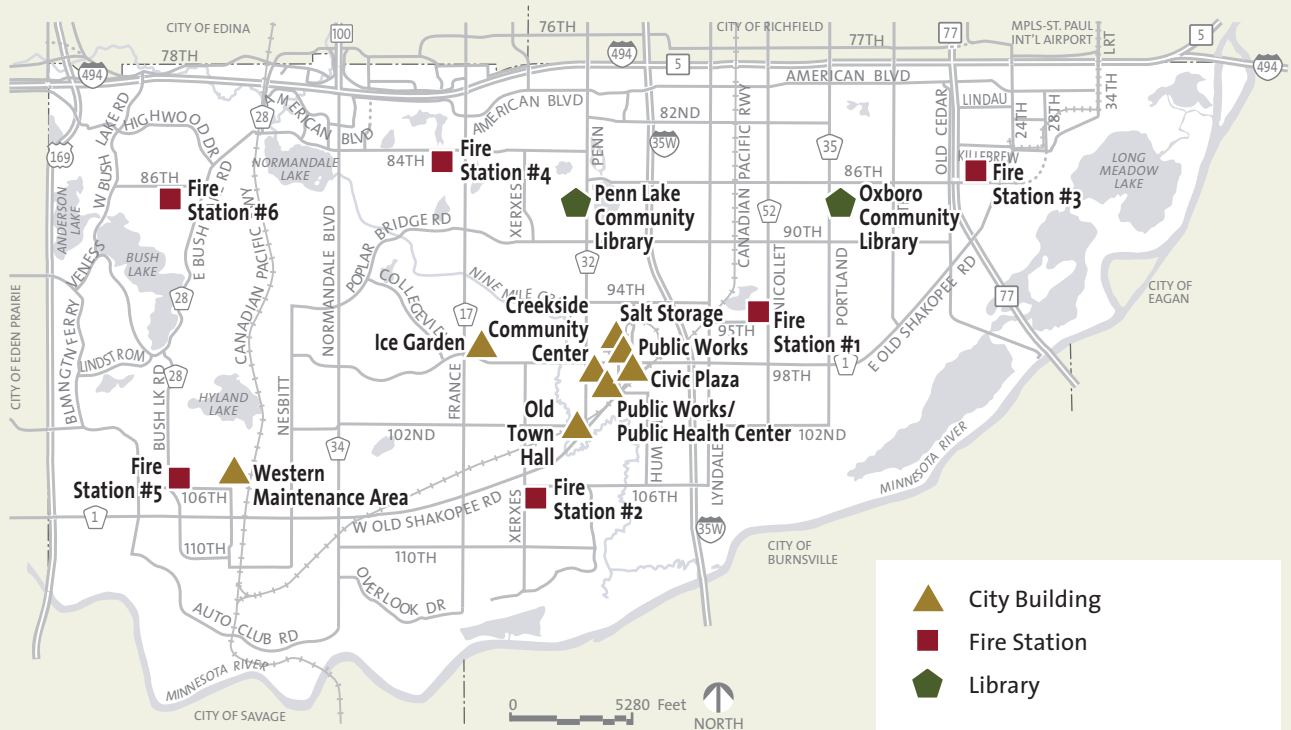
Did you know ...

- The Public Works salt facility was honored by the Salt Institute in 2006 and 2007 for "Excellence in Storage."



Bloomington Civic Plaza opened in 2003.

Figure 7.3 Public Buildings



Source: Bloomington Planning Division.

7.4 Goals, Strategies, Actions

Goal 1 Provide accessible park, recreation, and arts facilities and programs to serve the needs of Bloomington residents.

Strategy 1.1

Meet resident needs and desires for recreational activities through appropriate facilities and programs.

- Implement the strategies of the *Park Master Plan* (adopted February 11, 2008) with emphasis on the following top ten priority strategies:
 - (1) Park revitalization program for park infrastructure – The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will need to be reviewed and prioritized relative to the Park and Recreation goals and strategies and ongoing revitalization of parks.
 - (2) Signature Parks – Reposition parks to reduce costs, improve quality, and better meet evolving and diverse needs.
 - (3) Trails – Adopt an *Alternative Transportation Plan* including improved internal and external bicycle and pedestrian connections.
 - (4) Natural Resource Management – Enhance planning and resource allocation devoted to natural resources and sustainability.
 - (5) Recreation Programming – Emphasize quality programming to serve a spectrum of ages, abilities, and interests. Encourage active living actions.
 - (6) Community Gathering/Sense of Community – Develop community gathering locations and improve facilities and parks to enhance a sense of community.
 - (7) Arts – Integrate public art into community life and identify and increase opportunities to participate in arts and cultural.
 - (8) History – Identify and preserve historical sites and properties with historical significance.
 - (9) Collaboration – Increase communication and partnerships with advocacy groups, partners, and the business community. Support volunteerism and community stewardship of parks and natural areas.
 - (10) Bond Referendum – Define the content and timing of a future park, trail, green space, and community facilities bond referendum, an essential tool needed to fund planned park system improvements.

Strategy 1.2

Engage and inform the public on parks, recreation, and arts issues.

- Expand use of the City website to share information, respond to resident comments, register for programs and email listserves, and reserve facilities.
- Expand cable television programming for parks, recreation, and arts items.
- List the benefits of Parks and Recreation services and the positive impact they have on Bloomington residents, visitors, and property values.
- Include the residents in the planning of parks, recreation, and arts facilities and programs through solicitation of public input (e.g. public meetings, surveys, evaluations, feedback, task forces, etc.).
- Address resident concerns in a timely manner.
- Improve utilization of volunteers and develop a comprehensive volunteer recognition program.

Strategy 1.3

Continue to support cooperative relationships with other governmental agencies and community recreation and arts organizations to enhance and improve the Bloomington parks, recreation and arts facilities and programs.

- Work closely with the Three Rivers Regional Park District, the State Department of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Council, the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies in the improvement of regional recreation and trail facilities.
- Negotiate agreements with the Bloomington School District to maintain continued public use of recreation facilities after schools are closed.
- Explore partnerships with other service providers for parks, recreation, and arts services and facilities (e.g. YMCA, School District, youth athletic associations, Lion's Club, community service organizations, neighborhood groups, etc.) Partnerships can be for programming, fund-raising for park facilities, etc.
- Support the efforts and programming needs of the Bloomington Farmer's Market.

Strategy 1.4

Provide park facilities and amenities that meet or exceed standards set through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- Make reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs except where an undue burden exists (i.e. some facilities may not be accessible due to extreme topography and the excessive cost to make the facilities ADA compliant).

- Identify barriers to participation or use of facilities and take steps to reduce or eliminate these barriers.
- Provide specialized recreation facilities and programs for the elderly, handicapped, and other people with special needs.
- Implement the *Accessibility Evaluation Transition Plan*.

Strategy 1.5

Enhance and promote community facilities that meet the visual and performing arts programming needs of the community.

- Periodically evaluate the Arts Center programming with regard to resident needs and continue to expand programming options to reach the greatest possible number of residents.
- Take advantage of facilities already existing in the community for arts programming (schools, city, etc.).

Goal 2 Work cooperatively with education providers to ensure high quality, safe learning environments responsive to the needs of local residents and businesses.

Strategy 2.1

Continue to coordinate City and school planning efforts to cooperate on joint objectives.

- Utilize joint meetings between the City Council and School Board, as appropriate.
- Coordinate planning on multi-use community center facilities and adult educational programming to ensure City and School facilities and programs complement one another and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.
- Coordinate planning on community/school bicycle and pedestrian linkages.
- Include School District in citywide traffic demand management discussions.
- Cooperate with the School District to continue to provide drug abstinence education and youth activity programming.
- Coordinate Bloomington promotional strategies and marketing efforts with the School District.
- Continue to provide Police Department liaison services to public middle and high schools.
- Continue joint school/police emergency response training and simulations.
- Encourage a continued closed campus environment for all schools.

Strategy 2.2

Facilitate efforts to link private businesses and industry leaders with educational institutions.

- Create linkages between the private sector, high schools, and post-secondary institutions.

Goal 3 Support the efficient and economical provision of public services with high quality, long-lasting, and sustainable public buildings.

Strategy 3.1

Develop new facilities to meet community needs.

- Continue to study the funding, role, and location of a new community center.
- Periodically review fire station facilities and equipment for adequacy as additional development occurs.

Strategy 3.2

Use “green” standards and practices for management of existing buildings and design of new public buildings.

- Consider using the design standards of a nationally recognized rating system such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) when constructing any new public buildings.
- Continue to analyze building management practices of City facilities to increase energy efficiency and enhance the health and welfare of building occupants.

Strategy 3.3

Continue to maintain and upgrade city facilities as needed to provide services in a fiscally sound manner.